
Nonrule Policy Documents

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Information Bulletin #8
March 1, 1995

SUBJECT: Field Trials on Division of Fish and Wildlife Properties

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this information bulletin is to establish the current policy for the conduct of any "field trial" on a property administered by the division of fish and wildlife of the department of natural resources. This bulletin supersedes any previous policy directed to field trials.

II. DEFINITIONS

The definitions set forth in this paragraph apply throughout this bulletin:

"Division" means the division of fish and wildlife of the department of natural resources.

"Field trial" means an organized activity using a bird dog, retriever, versatile dog, or rabbit dog for which an entry fee is charged and where persons compete for a cash award, trophy, citation, or prize.

"Shoot to retrieve trial" means a field trial held under field conditions where a dog normally points game, is required to be steady to "wing and shot," and retrieves game at the command of the handler.

"Bird dog" means a dog that normally points feathered game in field.

"Retriever" means a dog that normally retrieves game or objects from water or land.

"Versatile dog" means a dog that normally points feathered game or trails a game animal and retrieves game or objects from water or land.

"Rabbit dog" means a dog that normally chases or follows rabbit.

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. An application for a permit to conduct a field trial must be submitted by the sponsor to the property manager at least three weeks before the proposed event.

B. The sponsor of the field trial must provide a current policy of liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000 to cover all participants, to cover all spectators, and to indemnify the state of Indiana and its employees. The policy shall be submitted to the division at least three weeks before the event and maintained at the central office of the division. The policy must also include coverage for food services and other concessions services allowed by and provided for an approved concessionaire. The applicant must relieve and hold the state of Indiana harmless from liability for any injury to a participant or spectator resulting from the field trial.

C. If approved by the department, a written permit will be issued to the applicant referencing any conditions or restrictions placed on the permit by the division. In addition, 310 IAC 5-1 applies to a permit issued under this information bulletin. The activities under a permit must conform to all state and federal laws. For a shoot to retrieve trial, a permit is not valid unless signed by the director of the department. Any permit under this section is subject to IC 4-21.5.

D. A bird dog or rabbit dog trial permit may be issued for a period from February 1 to April 30 and from August 15 through the weekend which includes the first Friday after November 3. A retriever and versatile dog trial permit may be issued from February 1 through the weekend which includes the first Friday after November 3. Exceptions to this paragraph are as follows:

(1) At Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area, no dog trial may be held during the first weekend of the season to take deer by bow and arrows established under 310 IAC 3.1-3-4. A subsequent trial shall not be permitted before 9:00 a.m., local time. A person engaging in a dog trial must remain north of Pulaski County Road 500 North until 10:00 a.m. on subsequent weekends. No dog trial shall be held during the season to take wild turkeys established under 310 IAC 3.1-4-11.

(2) At Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area, no dog trial may be held during the first weekend of the season to take deer by bow and arrows established under 310 IAC 3.1-3-4. A subsequent trial shall not be permitted before 9:00 a.m., local time. No dog trial shall be held during the season to take wild turkeys established under 310 IAC 3.1-4-11.

(3) At Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area, no dog trial may be held during the first weekend of the season to take deer by bow and arrows established under 310 IAC 3.1-3-4. A subsequent trial shall not be permitted before 9:00

a.m., local time. No dog trial shall be held during the season to take wild turkeys established under 310 IAC 3.1-4-11 nor during any season during which a waterfowl may be taken.

E. Shoot to retrieve permits and non-kill permits may be issued for Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area and for Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area for retriever, bird, and versatile dog trials. Non-kill permits may be issued for retriever dog trials at Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area. Shoot to retrieve permits and non-kill retriever dog trial permits may be issued for Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area. Non-kill permits may be issued for bird dog trials and rabbit dog trials at Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area; rabbit dog trial permits will be issued at Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area for Area "D" only.

F. The dates for a bird dog, rabbit dog, or versatile dog trial will be coordinated between the Indiana Field Trial Association and the division. Any seasonal trial date shall be submitted by the association to the division at least three weeks before the start of each field trial season.

G. A field trial shall be held only in a designated area or on a developed course. Horse traffic shall be in the classic pattern and controlled by a field marshal. The marshal is responsible for the field behavior of scouts and handlers. For a shoot to retrieve field trial, the bird field shall be designated by the property manager and shall not exceed 20 acres. For a retriever field trial, the area used shall be designated by the property manager and shall not exceed 160 acres, with no more than six ponds and no more than eight fields included in the area. For a rabbit dog trial, the area shall be designated by the property manager and no horse traffic is allowed.

H. A game animal shall not be released to enhance the success of the field trial unless approved by the property manager. Game must be examined and tagged before release. An import permit issued under IC 14-2-11-7 must accompany any gamebird imported into the state. For a shoot to retrieve field trial, bagged game must be retrieved from the field and disposed by the permit holder. No carcass shall be deposited in a trash container on the property or discarded on the premises. Before any carcass is buried, permission must be received from the property manager. A rabbit dog trial must be conducted without the release of any wild or game animal.

I. A permit holder must not set up a gate or charge admission for participation in a field trial. Neither shall a permit holder receive a portion of the gate receipt. Any arrangements for food, drinks, or other related services must be made with the division before the field trial. Concession fees will be paid to the division when a concession is granted. The only concessions which may be granted are for the following:

- (1) Food and drink service.
- (2) Ferrier service.
- (3) Tack sales.
- (4) Horser rental.
- (5) Hay and feed.
- (6) Another purpose approved by the director of the department.

J. The permit holder is responsible for each of the following:

- (1) To obtain necessary permits and to pay all fees and charges.
 - (2) To police the immediate vicinity of the trial headquarters, ponds, and trial fields used.
 - (3) To provide officials needed to supervise the conduct of contestants and spectators and to run the trials.
 - (4) To provide the property manager with a list of officials, the number of entries, and the braces or series to be run.
- An authorized representative of the permit holder must meet with the property manager before the field trial is held.

K. The department is responsible for each of the following:

- (1) The determination of trial dates, areas, and permits.
- (2) The placement of any trash containers determined to be needed.
- (3) The selection of any additional supervisory personnel determined by the department to be needed.

L. Unless to do so would place a field trial in conflict with this information bulletin, a field trial shall be conducted in conformance with the by-laws of the Indiana Field Trials Association or another state, national, or regional association recognized by the division.

M. The participants in a field trial must display fair play and sportsmanship at all times. A permit may be revoked whose participants violate the permit, violate a state or federal law, or commit unsportmanlike conduct. In addition, the division may decline to issue another permit to a permit holder who violates this paragraph of the information bulletin.

N. The director may, pursuant to IC 4-21.5-4, restrict or cancel a permit issued under this information bulletin.
